

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic network comprising:

a first electronic device associated with a second electronic device, said association providing for the transfer of data between said first electronic device and said second electronic device; said first electronic device being adapted to:

measure the response time of data transfers between said first electronic device and said second electronic device;

compare the measured response time to a preselected response time; and

provide an indication if said measured response time is greater than said preselected response time.

2. The electronic network of claim 1, wherein said first electronic device is a computer.

3. The electronic network of claim 1 and further comprising a computer associated with said first electronic device, said computer being adapted to establish said preselected response time within said first electronic device.

4. The electronic network of claim 1 and further comprising a computer associated with said first electronic device, said first electronic device providing said indication to said computer.

5. The electronic network of claim 1, and further comprising at least one third electronic device operatively connected between said first electronic device and said second electronic device, and wherein

5 said response time is a plurality of response times
between said first electronic device and said at least
one third electronic device and between said at least
one third electronic device and said second electronic
device.

6. The electronic network of claim 1, wherein
said first electronic device is adapted to measure the
response time of data transfers between said first
electronic device and said second electronic device and
5 compare the measured response time to said preselected
response time at preselected time intervals.

7. The electronic network of claim 1, wherein
said indication includes said measured response time.

8. A computer network comprising:

 a first computer associated with at least one first
electronic device, the association providing for the
transfer of data between said first computer and said at
5 least one first electronic device;

 said first computer having a computer-readable
medium associated therewith, said computer-readable
medium containing instructions for controlling said
first computer to monitor said network by:

10 measuring the response time of data transfers
between said first computer and said at least one
first electronic device;

 comparing the measured response time to a
preselected response time; and

15 providing an indication if said measured
response time is greater than said preselected
response time.

9. The computer network of claim 8 and further comprising a second computer operatively connected to said first computer, said second computer having a computer-readable medium associated therewith, said computer-readable medium containing instructions for establishing said preselected time response in said first computer.

10. The computer network of claim 8 and further comprising a second computer operatively associated with said first computer, said second computer having a computer-readable medium associated therewith, said computer-readable medium containing instructions for receiving said indication from said first computer.

11. The computer network of claim 10, wherein said computer-readable medium of said second computer contains instructions for displaying a graphical representation of said network, wherein the portion of said network causing said measured response time to exceed said preselected response time is distinguishable from other portions of said representation of said network.

12. The computer network of claim 8, wherein said computer-readable medium measures said response time and compares said response time to said preselected response time at a preselected time interval.

13. The computer network of claim 8, wherein said indication includes said measured response time.

14. The computer network of claim 8, wherein said indication includes said preselected response time.

15. The computer network of claim 8 and further comprising at least one second electronic device operatively connected between said first computer and said at least one first electronic device.

16. The computer network of claim 15, wherein said at least one second electronic device is a router.

17. A method for monitoring a computer network, said method comprising:

establishing a preselected data response time between a first computer and at least one first electronic device;

measuring the actual data response time between said first computer and said at least one first electronic device;

comparing said preselected data response time to said actual data response time; and

providing an indication if said actual data response time is greater than said preselected data response time.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said establishing a preselected data response time further comprises using a second computer to establish a preselected data response time in said first computer.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said providing an indication comprises providing an indication to a second computer if said actual data response time is greater than said preselected data response time.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said at least one first electronic device is a router.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein said at least one first electronic device is a computer.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein said measuring and said comparing are performed at preselected time intervals.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein said providing an indication further comprises providing said measured response time.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein said providing an indication further comprises providing said preselected response time.

25. A method for monitoring a computer network, wherein said computer network is of the type comprising at least one electronic device operatively associated between a first computer and a second computer, said
5 method comprising:

establishing a first preselected data transfer time between said first computer and said at least one electronic device;

10 establishing a second preselected data transfer time between said at least one electronic device and said second computer;

measuring a first actual data transfer time between said first computer and said at least one electronic device;

15 measuring a second actual data transfer time between said at least one electronic device and said second computer;

comparing said first preselected data transfer time to said first actual data transfer time;

20 comparing said second preselected data transfer

time to said second actual data transfer time; and
providing an indication if either said first actual
data transfer time is greater than said first
preselected data transfer time or if said second actual
25 data transfer time is greater than said second
preselected data transfer time.

26. A method for monitoring a computer network,
wherein said computer network is of the type comprising
at least one electronic device operatively associated
between a first computer and a second computer, said
method comprising:

establishing a first preselected data transfer time
between said first computer and said at least one
electronic device;

establishing a second preselected data transfer
time between said at least one electronic device and
said second computer;

executing a trace route routine to measure a first
actual data transfer time between said first computer
and said at least one electronic device;

executing a trace route routine to measure a second
actual data transfer time between said at least one
electronic device and said second computer;

comparing said first preselected data transfer time
to said first actual data transfer time;

comparing said second preselected data transfer
time to said second actual data transfer time; and

providing an indication if either said first actual
data transfer time is greater than said first
preselected data transfer time or if said second actual
data transfer time is greater than said second
preselected data transfer time.

